ISSUE SIX

RED ALERT

FREE

TWISTED SISTER

R.A.: You've been together for seven years right ?
Dee: seven and a half.
R.A.: You just played the New York area that whole time ?
Dee: Yeah. Well up until nineteen... is this 83 ? Yeah up until mid. 82. Then we went to england.
R.A.: How did that happen ?
Dee: Well we got a record deal through a paper called Kerrang/ Sounds. We were trying to get a record deal w/ a company around here & we were just getting rejected time and time again. We had been approaching record companys for about 4 years; Every year a new tape, and they just turned us down. Why, because every thing about Twisted sister they were afraid of. Too heavy Too crazy, too loud, didn't like the way we look, the way we sound, etc. I remember one rejection letter said, "We don't like the way you look, we don't like the way you sound, we don't like anything about you. We're not intrested in you in any way matter, shape or form. Don't ever send us a tape again."

Finally we were playing a club in New Jersey & Ross Halfin from Kerrang/Sounds, he came down and he says " What the F ck are you doing here ?!" He's already gotta cult thing going for us in england. He showed us the papers and we were on underground playlists, the singles we had released on our own. He said "Their ready for you" I said we'll make a move. They started writing about us, and it caused enough of a stir to land us a deal with a small record lable called Secret
R.A.: I was going to ask you how you happen to get on Secret because it's pretty much a "punk" lable.
Dee: There were a few other small lables intrested but Secret was the one to come across w/ the deal. Why they decided to sighn us, I think they saw punk as kind of a dying phenomina on a mass scale & they wanted to graduate to something else. The punk fans are the closest thing to the H.M. fans. Their very border line, where you have like Exploited on one extreme and Black Sabbath on the other extreme and right in the middle you have a band like Motorhead riding the line. There's a cross over and I think they thought that most of the punks would fall back to H.M.. I think ther's a certain amount of punk sensibilties to Twisted Sister. Particulsry live more so than on record. Live we play faster more driving, ther's not much concern for total accracy as for the aggression and raw power. Raw Power that's I'm. Then they signed the band and we went right over. When we first went over we went to do our record and we only did a few shows. Then the record came out, never got any push whatso ever. We sold a considerable amount and then after a couple of cancelled tour we found out Secret had gone out of bussiness. From all of that we managed to get enough intrest to get on a show called the Tube. So we borrowed about 20,000 dollars and flew over. From that T.V. show we got 5 record companies call us imediatly. We had EMI, Arista, Crysalis, MCA, and Atlantic, all call. We went with Atlantic. It wasn't the best deal we were offerd but it was the most sensible.
R.A.: What is "Run For Your Life" about ?
Dee: It's about a friend af , used to be my best friend, in many ways he still is. the guy is certified insane. He's poerful, deadly, deadly, deadly. He's been after his girlfriend for many many years. He's like 6' tall black belt, I've seen him take on 15 people, bouncers, and destroy em'. I mean he's just f ckin' out of his mind. And he got this girlfriend, he finally opened his heart up and himself and commited himself to someone, and her being a typical 16 year old girl when he asked her if she loved him she said yes, forever ? yes, and there'll never be anyone else ? yes. She didn't know, being a stupid 16 year old. She didn't realize she was dealing with a f cking sycopath certified insane person; and when she said yes, he said deal. A year later she tried to break up w/ him. He's been chasing her ever since, destroying that poor girls mind.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.

VIRGIN STEELE

From Long Island N.Y. hails this band Virgin Steele. They have been together for around two years and already their first two albums have sold over 60 thousand copies just in the U.S. and Europe. Guitarist Jack Starr has made the pages of Kerrang as a guitar hero. Also available is his "How To Play Metal Guitar" cassette and booklet.

Most recently Virgin Steele has been working on a few videos for MTV, and are preparing for a tour of the U.S. and possibly Europe.
R.A.: When will you be touring ?
David: We'll be playing around here late January. So we'll be hitting New York area, Jersey, and then we hope to go a... If we don't go over seas we'll go to California the West Coast thing for awhile.
R.A.: Have you played in Europe before ?
David: We've been there but we haven't played there. We did a short promotional tour in july. We went over there and met with Kerrang and Sounds, did a radio interview, it was really good. We're gonna go back pretty soon, maybe France as a first stop.
R.A.: What is "The Redeemer" about ?
David: It's kind of like your judgement day. All the sinners kneeling before God after a hollow wretched life. basicaly that's it.
R.A.: What are your musical influences ?
David: My influences are early Queen, Ronnie James Dio, Zepplin, Angel, Deep Purple, Rainbow, Genesis, and bands like that, and all the classical composers, Chopin, etc. because I used to play recitals, I play classical piano.
R.A.: Were you in any band before Virgin Steele ?

CONTINUED INSIDE

ROSE TATTOO

INSIDE.

Rose Tattoo

This interview took place while the band was still together & on the "Scarred for Life" tour. It's been a long time coming but finally here.

R.A.: Is the "Butcher and Fast Eddie" a true story ?

Angry: Sure is mate.

R.A.: It's about someone you knew ?

Angry: Yeah butcher's one of my mates.

R.A.: How did you happen to get together ?

Angry: Peter used to be in this band called Buffalo. It was like a real Black Sabbath type band; and I basically thought they were a bunch of jerks, except for Peter. He used to play bass then & he always stood out cause he looked the best, he looked like he knew what he was doing, and he played like it too. He was the only one in the band with tattoos, and he always struck me as a decent sort of a player and a decent type of bloke as well.

When I heard he was forming a band he told me what he wanted.

R.A.: How are crowds excepting you in america ?

Angry: Well I think for the fact that that no one has ever heard of us and we are an opening act, we get thirty minutes to introduce ourselves make ourselves become known and loved, I think we do it fairly f_ckin' well. As far as being an opening act it's traditional for opening acts to cop all the sh_t; So we been coppin' sh_t for the first time in our lives.

Angry: I was watchin' T.V. the other day & this pastor Gary somebody said he was deciphering all these rock and roll records, playing em' backwards and stuff and it's all messages from the devil. I mean how f_cked is this guy.

R.A.: He does it all the time.

Angry: the thing is mate I've never been experianced to it you know coming from Austalia we get maybe every sunday mornin religous programs you know Humbard, Billy Grahm, we never get the real fanatics. Seein' this guy, whats his name, on tv that blew me away. I just sat there with my f_ckin' mouth open I was just f_cked I couldn't believe it. He was sayin' play it backwards and it's masked backwards and I'm going aaaaaaaaaaaaaahhhhhhhhh! And like they mentioned AC/DC, their partically good friends of mine. They didn't exactly mention their name but I knew who they ment. They said they had an album about hell, "Highway to Hell".

R.A.: They say they worship the devil.

Angry: Bullsh_t ! The thing is that speach pattern is all made up of vowels, words are all vowel formations. If you say a certain amount of vowels wich is all while you're talkin' alls youre doing is putting certain vowels together to make certain sounds. Of course if you play em' backwards the precentage of it meaning something backwards are pretty good. Who makes f_cking records to revolve in one direction to be played in the opposite direction. There's not a f_ckin' record player in the world that plays records.....

R.A.: You gotta do it with your finger.

Angry: Thats the whole argument right there. This cunt is so bent so f_ckin crazy that he'll take records and push em' backwards against the needle to try an find.... I mean you gotta be f_cked ! People don't make records to run backwards.

R.A.: You recently got all those tattoos right ?

Angry: I've decided to get all my old ugly ones covered up. When I joined the band me and peter had lots of tattoos that were like little stars, hearts, skulls you know the things you get when youre a kid. Both of us had quite alot of tattoos because of the fact that we love tattoos; and we weren't gonna get anyone in the band that didn't have tattoos, or didn't love tattoos as much as we did. When I first started getting tattoos I was 15. I had 12 tattoos by the time I was 22. When you get a tattoo you're so in love with the f_ckin thing you see someone with a better one and you think oh jes I'd love that f_kin thing so you get one as close to that as you can; and it goes on and on. In the end you end up covered with em'. Next I'm gonna get started on my legs. I've got half my back and half my chest done, I wanna get that finished.

R.A.: What do you think about drugs ?

Angry: I like drugs. I think depending on what you take and the amount you take. I'm sittin here drinking a bottle of beer and you ask me about drugs. My perticular f_ckin habit is drinking. I've been a drinker since I was 12. It's not something I'm proud of. I like to smoke dope. I hate heroin with a vengence! It kills alot of people, and the people it doesn't kill it kills spiritualy.

RECORD SHORTS

##-Harshly punishing
#-Rocks my Mama
%-So So
*-Barf

% JUDAS PREIST
DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH
(COLUMBIA)

A little faster than the last effort. Sounds kind of like the last three albums. Nothing new.

BATTLEAXE
BURN THIS TOWN
(MUSIC FOR NATIONS)

Yet another fine release from m.f.n.

Many have overlooked this fine slab of vinyl but this is an excellent slice of metal mayhem. The vocals are reminicent of ex- Maiden Paul Di'Anno. Starting with Ready to Deliver" the pace never slows. some songs are a bit to generic but the majority of the songs are total rockers.

ACCEPT
BALLS TO THE WALL
(LARK)

I've been crazy about these guys since I heard breaker. Udo has one of the best voices around. The lyrics show quite a social awareness both political and personal.

The talent these guys posses blows me away. some of the tracks are much more melodic and slower than "Restless" but still contain ample power to destroy.

MANOWAR
INTO GLORY RIDE
(MEGAFORCE)

On the back of this record it says "Death To False Metal". I'm not sure what "False Metal" is but I guess this is supposed to be the real thing. Anyway...

The first cut is the dangerously fast "Warlord" wich punishes me to no end. The rest of the L.P. is solid, hard, heavy, everything but fast. You'd have to hear it.

TWISTED SISTER CONTINUED.

R.A.: What are some of your musical influences ?
Dee: I'll put my strongest big three okay ? There's tons of others. Alice Cooper, the original Alice. The new ones pathetic. It f_cking hurts me as a fan to see him.... I don't know, the man was an innovator. The man led the way. Now he's just pathetic. He looks like a skeleton, freebasing his ass off. It's very sad for me. Alice Cooper, AC/DC, Black Sabbath.
R.A.: You write most of the S.T. songs ?
Dee: All the sodgs. I work titles or best & I start singing in the tape, I'll sing the music & then the melody just comes to me.
R.A.: Are you aware that you were on the Kerrang all time record list?
Dee: Yes. Wait till next year.
R.A.: Hopefully radio airplay. You have got no airplay at all here.
Dee: We get alot of negative flack. The purpose of this tour is not predominatly to make new fans ; at a place like this, the people coming down are the people that are alresdy into you. We're not winning anybody. We just want to play for the people who've been waiting a long time, and at the same time were dragging these radio people down and saying, check it out. Now the program director for this area, f_cking went out four wheeling. He left after our set. Yeah he said he'd be around but he dissapeared. They all got the same attitude about Twisted Sister. Well he's a f_ckin' .... I won't say what he is.

David: I've been in public bands before Virgin Steele. I hadn't played in a band in awhile because I was going to school studying music and that took alot of time. The other band was you know, bar curcit.
R.A.: How long did Virgin Steele play covers before the L.P. ?
David: Virgin Steele was never a cover band. From the first day we've played originals. We went to the studio three months after we we're together.
R.A.: Are you working on a new L.P. yet?
David: Yeah. I'm writing some things. I've always got old songs I go back to. I don't always use every song. I'm writing some, Jacks writing some. It hopefully will be out in the summer.
R.A.: What will it be called ?
David: We have a couple we're throwing around. One is Symphonies of Steele.
R.A.: How much is your sword worth ?
David: It cost me two thousand dollars to have made.
R.A.: What's it made of ?
David: Solid Virgin Steele. It like fifty or sixty pounds. it's really rediculous.
R.A.: In Kerrsng you offered Ronnie James Dio the use of it for a video. Did he reply ?
David: He never did. I guess he doesn't like to give people press, or he didn't see it, or he didn't care.
R.A.: What do you think of Venom, Merciful Fate, Satan, etc. Bands like that ?
David: That's their gimmick. Thats what they use to get rich quick. I don't think they have any thing to offer musically. I don't think their good on arrangment. I don't think their accomplished song writers. Venoms lyrics are totally off the wall. Some kids like that. I personally think it gives Heavy Metal a bad name. They put out such negative thoughts. Whats all this kill kill burn in hell, and all that for. When ever I sing about that like "The Redeemer", it's allways triumph over evil. With those guys evil always wins. Let's go f_cking rape a nun. We don't need it. It's useless.

HIGHWAY CHILE
STORYBOOK HEROES
(MIRUS)

Not bad. Sort of typical but it does have some originality. Sort of Ted Nugent sounding guitar.
Reminds me of Axe or Night Ranger.
I wouldn't rush right out buy it but if you have a few extra bux might as well pick it up.

THOR
UNCHAINED
(MONGOL HORDE)

I still laugh as I look at this cover.
Thor is the vocalists name, who really looks like Thor (Marvel Comics), muscles and all.
The music is played with the utmost talent and good arrangement. and Thor can sing. I fugured with all those muscles he was toteing he was just there for the image.
I still laugh.

TAKASHI
KAMIKAZE KILLERS
(MONGOL HORDE)

A very impressive debut for both Takashi and Mongle Horde.
Devestating power make these moderatly paced cuts a wall of sheer metallic sound. "Strangler" and "Kamikaze" are all out verbal and musical assaults.
Bone crunching stuff.

ALIEN
COSMIC FANTASY
(MONGOL HORDE)

The first cut Cosmic Fantasy" is a melodic driving song with good musicianship and arrangement. The next cut "Star Lover" is also quite good. (Sounds like they've been listening to T Rex too much). Next my fave "Headbangin' " an all out rocker with cool special effects wich gets me looking forward to side 2. So I turn it over and what ? Did they press Scandle on this side ? "Don't say goodbye"is a melodic love song sung by female drummer Roxann. A great dissappointment. Next is "Cosmic Fantasy". What ? isn't that on the other side ? Yup ! What's the deal? Well 3 out of 5 (5 ?) ain't bad.

NEGATIVE APPROACH
TIED DOWN
(TOUCH AND GO)

Starting with the title track "Tied Down" all the way to the last "I'll Survive" the intensity never lets up.
Rob's guitar sounds great but, it sounds like he's afraid to let loose on the solo's like he did so well live. The bass is tight and the pounding drums played only now O.P. can, Great !
The vocals are more torturing than I have ever heard then. A fantastic L.P. A must have.

VIRGIN STEELE
WAIT FOR THE NIGHT
(MONGOL HORDE)

This is the third release from Virgin Steele and yet again proves them a force to be reckoned.
These four songs are four of the best V.S. songs to date. "Don't say Goodbye" from the devastating II Guardians of the Flame L.P. is a very classy H.M. song in the U.F.O. vein. "I Am The One" Starts with an acoustic guitar intro and goes into a punishing all out rocker. "Go Down Fighting" and Wait For The Night" are also two fine examples that Virgin Steele are a very important band for the future of Heavy Metal.

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